

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2135
INFO USICA WASHDC
ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 05763

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH JOURNALISTS' TOUR

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REFS: (A) WARSAW 4451 (NOTAL), (B) USICA 9697 (NOTAL)

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1. AT MEETING OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE JUNE 6, TO OBTAIN ALLIED VIEWS ON PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD NEED AT LEAST THEIR PRIOR TACIT APPROVAL AND TO AVOID ANY SURPRISES, WE RAISED PROPOSAL, WHICH WE EMPHASIZED WAS ONLY A PROPOSAL (REF A), FOR GROUP OF FOUR POLISH JOURNALISTS TO VISIT NATO HEADQUARTERS DURING SEPTEMBER 10-12 VISIT TO BRUSSELS. PENDING VIEWS OF POSTS IN ITALY REGARDING FEASIBILITY OF NAPLES VISIT, INCLUDING BRIEFING ON ROLE OF NATO'S SOUTHERN COMMAND, WE DID NOT RAISE SPECIFIC POSSIBILITY OF NAPLES VISIT. HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED IF JOURNALISTS WOULD VISIT PLACES OTHER THAN BRUSSELS WE SAID THAT TRAVEL TO FRANCE AND ITALY WAS FORESEEN.

2. REACTION IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO VISIT TO NATO HEAD-QUARTERS WAS ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLE. WHILE THERE WAS NO OPTIMISM THAT VISIT WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY ALTER TONE OF THE
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JOURNALISTS' OUTPUT, THERE WAS STRONG VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THEM TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NATO AND ITS STRUCTURE.

3. THERE WAS REQUEST FOR THE NAMES IF POSSIBLE OF THE JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATING.

4. THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS RECENTLY HAD RECEIVED A SOVIET JOURNALIST AND THE CHAIRMAN VOLUNTEERED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE POLISH JOURNALISTS MIGHT BE RECEIVED BY A HIGH-LEVEL MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF. WE THANKED THE CHAIRMAN AND SAID HIS SUGGESTION WOULD BE KEPT WELL IN MIND.

5. THERE WAS INTEREST IN WHO WOULD BE FINANCING THE JOURNALISTS' TRAVEL. WE SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE AT US EXPENSE. IN THE CORRIDOR FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE WONDERED HOW THE INVITATION FOR THE JOURNALISTS TO VISIT NATO HEADQUARTERS MIGHT BE MOST EFFECTIVELY PHRASED. HE SUGGESTED THAT US SPONSORSHIP ALONE OF THE NATO VISIT MIGHT NOT BE THE WAY TO GET THE MOST OUT OF IT. HE SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIS AUTHORITIES REGARDING THE PROPOSAL. (COMMENT: IF LUNS WERE TO AGREE TO RECEIVE THE JOURNALISTS, HE MIGHT EXTEND AN INVITATION TO VISIT NATO HEADQUARTERS. END COMMENT) IN ASIDE TO THE BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE, WE TOOK CARE TO NOTE THAT THE VISIT TO NATO HEADQUARTERS WOULD NECESSARILY BE CONTINGENT ON THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO ISSUE VISAS TO THE POLISH JOURNALISTS. HE CHUCKLED AND SAID THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE LATE IN APPLYING FOR BELGIAN VISAS BECAUSE THE RED TAPE WAS SOMETIMES TIME-CONSUMING.

6. OUR SPEAKING NOTES, CIRCULATED AT THE REQUEST OF COM-
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MITTEE MEMBERS, FOLLOW:

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BEGIN TEXT:

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MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION TO A PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY OUR EMBASSY IN WARSAW TO BRING A GROUP OF POLISH JOURNALISTS TO BRUSSELS SEPTEMBER 10-12, AND TO INCLUDE IN THE GROUP'S PROGRAM IN BRUSSELS A VISIT TO NATO HEADQUARTERS. ACCORDING TO OUR EMBASSY, A SIMILAR TRIP LAST YEAR DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC ISSUES WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL. THIS YEAR, OUR EMBASSY IN WARSAW WOULD LIKE ALSO TO INCLUDE FOR THE TRAVELERS SOME INTRODUCTION TO NATO AND ITS POLICIES SO AS TO HELP COUNTER THE SOVIET VIEW OF NATO REFLECTED IN MOST POLISH MEDIA COVERAGE.

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THE VISITORS WOULD INCLUDE FOUR JOURNALISTS AND THEY WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY OUR INFORMATION OFFICER AT WARSAW. THE JOURNALISTS WOULD BE RANKING EDITORS AND/OR COMMENTATORS OF LEADING WARSAW MEDIA, INCLUDING POLISH RTV, POLITYKA (WEEKLY), TRYBUNA LUDU (PARTY DAILY) AND ZYCIE WARSZAWY (MASS CIRCULATION DAILY). ALL OF THE JOURNALISTS WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL BACKGROUND IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

ISSUES. AT NATO HEADQUARTERS APPROPRIATE MEETINGS AND
BRIEFINGS WOULD BE ARRANGED.

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THIS VISIT IS SOME TIME OFF, BUT ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE.
SO MR. CHAIRMAN, IF ALLIED REACTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL COULD
BE HAD AT AN EARLY DATE MY DELEGATION WOULD BE MOST
APPRECIATIVE.

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THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN

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